

# Unraveling the mysteries of lightning

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Lightning is poorly understood. Los Alamos National Laboratory is working to change that.

Because lightning produces optical and radio frequency signals similar to those from a nuclear explosion, it's important to be able to distinguish whether such signals are caused by lightning or a nuclear event.

As part of the global security mission at Los Alamos, scientists use lightning to help develop better instruments for nuclear test-ban treaty monitoring and, in the process, have learned a lot about lightning itself.

This story first appeared in [Huffington Post](#).

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